

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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EB-07 LAB-04 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 /112 W

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R 201005Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6621

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

RUFHNAAXUSMISSION NATO 1642

USMISSION UN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: MALTA CONTINUES TO SEEK ADMISSION INTO GROUP OF 77

1. MALTESE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND CULTURE DR. JOSEPH CASSAR DEPARTED ON JANUARY 17 FOR JAKARTA TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE OF THE ASIAN REGION OF HE GROUP OF 77.

DR. CASSAR WAS ACCOMPANIED BY JOSEPH BUTTIGIEG, A JUNIOR OFFICIAL IN HE MINISTRY OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. ALREADY PRESENT IN JAKARTA ARE TWO MIDDLE-LEVEL MALTESE OFFICIALS, EVARIST SALIBA FROM THE MALTESE MISSION IN GENEVA AND VICTOR CAMILLERI FROM THE MALTESE MISSION IN NEW YORK.

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2. FROM JAKARTA, DR. CASSAR GOES TO TOKYO, WHERE HE WILL BE JOINED BY FOREIGN SECRETARY MAURICE ABELA AND TWO OTHER MALTESE OFFICIALS FOR TALKS WITH THE JAPANESE. THE COMBINED MALTESE DELEGATION HEADED BY CASSAR WILL THEN PAY BRIEF VISITS TO PEKING AND PYONGYONG, AFTER WHICH THEY WILL ATTEND THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE GROUP OF 77 IN MANILA LATER IN THE MONTH. THE MALTESE HOPE THAT THEIR APPLICATION TO JOIN THE GROUP OF 77 WILL BE ACTED UPON FAVORABLY AT THAT TIME.

3. COMMENT: MALTA HAS ACTIVELY BEEN SEEKING ADMISSION INTO THE GROUP OF 77 FOR SEVERAL YEARS. CASSAR'S TASK IN JAKARTA AND MANILA WILL BE TO LOBBY FURTHER FOR ITS ADMISSION AND TO OVERCOME "SOME RESISTANCE" BY CERTAIN ASIAN MEMBERS OF THE GROUP WHO DO NOT APPROVE OF THE ENTRY OF ANY MORE NON-ASIAN MEMBERS. MALTESE OFFICIALS TELL US THAT THEIR CHOICE HAS BEEN BETWEEN THE AFRICAN, THE LATIN-AMERICAN AND THE ASIAN REGIONAL GROUPS. THEY CHOSE THE LATTER IN THE HOPE OF RIDING IN ON THE PRETEXT OF YUGOSLAVIA (A CHARTER MEMBER), AND ARE QUIETLY CONFIDENT OF EVENTUAL ACCEPTANCE.

3. MALTA'S ANXIETY TO JOIN THE GROUP OF 77 HAS ALSO BEEN REFLECTED IN MALTA'S GENERALLY ANTI-WESTERN VOTING RECORD IN THE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORA. MALTA TRIES VERY HARD TO BURNISH ITS "NON-ALIGNED" CREDENTIALS AND HOPES THAT ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE GROUP OF 77, IF AND WHEN IT IS APPROVED, WILL ADD TO ITS INTERNATIONAL STANDING AND MUSCLE. SMITH

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